SURREY matters

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Autumn 2012

Saving money

Surrey mum cuts her food waste and her shopping bill

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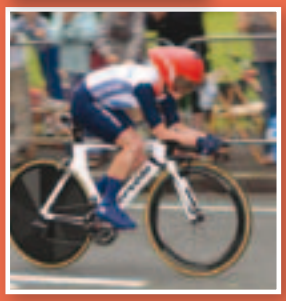
Plus!



Cycling in Surrey ● Safe Drive Stay Alive ● Dealing with domestic abuse ● Love Where You Live

TRAVEL SMART in SURREY

Get cycling in Surrey

You've seen the professionals in action this summer, now it's your turn!

For maps, safety advice, cycle training and guided rides visit www.travelsmartsurrey.info

CHOICES THAT HELP CUT CARBON, CALORIES AND COST

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Visit us online: www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters.

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

If you didn't receive your own copy of Surrey Matters, or you would like this magazine in large print, on tape or in another language, please contact us. A pdf version is available on **www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters.**

Welcome

I was very proud to see Surrey residents of all ages embracing the Olympic spirit by lining the streets for the road cycling events. This, followed by the Tour of Britain, really has made Surrey a top destination for cycling. Turn to page 10 to read more about it.

To top this off, one of our care leavers was chosen to be an Olympic ambassador. I am very proud of the educational successes in both school and university of our looked after children and care leavers. Indeed one achieved a first class honours degree.

But through all the excitement and success and as the new school year starts, it's important that we don't forget the many children and families that need our help and support across the county.

We have been working hard to increase the number of foster carers and adopters in Surrey, as every child deserves a safe and loving home. On page 6, there's a truly inspirational story of a Surrey couple who have fostered 244 children over the past 36 years.

For others facing adversity in the family home, help is available. One mother shares her story of domestic abuse on page 11 and explains how she overcame the trauma and managed to leave with her children.

If you think you could help Surrey's vulnerable children and families or if you're just interested in finding out more about our Children's Services, email us at surreymatters@surreycc.gov.uk or call 03456 009 009.

At a glance…

Over the last few months Children Services have:

Launched a savings scheme with matched funding for children in care with Children's Minister Tim Loughton; the first of its kind in this country.

Maintained safeguarding as a priority, with renewed emphasis on missing children.

Ran a number of innovative family support projects tackling domestic abuse and other problems.

F. M. Angell

Mary Angell
Cabinet Member for Children and Families
Surrey County Council

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News

Get composting

Whether you're a keen gardener or just want to choose the greenest, most natural way to deal with your food and garden waste, composting is the perfect solution.

Autumn is a popular time of year to tidy up the garden ready for winter. Why not compost the last grass cuttings of the year and autumnal prunings to make your own free compost ready for next year.

To buy a compost bin from just £15 and for top composting tips, visit www.surreywastepartnership.org.uk or call 0844 571 4444.

DISCOVER SURREY'S COUNTRYSIDE

Did you know that Surrey is the most wooded county in Britain? Or that the county has the most species of trees, grasses and wildflowers in England?

Surrey's countryside is beautiful during the autumn months, so look out for the latest issue of Explore Surrey magazine for ideas of things to do and see, whether you're on foot, on your bike or on the water.

Pick up a free copy at your local library or read online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/exploresurrey. You can also call 03456 009 009 to find out more.

BLOOMIN' MARVELLOUS

The Surrey village of Tatsfield has been selected to take part in this year's national Britain in Bloom competition.

Tatsfield has been selected for Britain in Bloom three times before and this year residents have planted Jubilee and Olympics displays.

Their efforts were judged in August by competition organiser The Royal Horticultural Society and the winners will be announced on Saturday 6 October.

Surrey County Council has worked with Tatsfield residents to cut grass verges and keep the village tidy. It has also provided a grant of £1,000 to contribute to the plants and tools needed.

For more information about Tatsfield in Bloom, visit www.tatsfield.org.uk or call Bob David on 01959 577 357.

Get free insulation for your home

All homeowners and private tenants across Surrey can get free insulation until the end of the year.

Cavity wall and loft insulation can save you in excess of £300 a year in energy bills and will make your home warmer.

Action Surrey is working in partnership with Surrey County Council through UK Home Insulations Ltd to offer the free insulation.To find out more, call 0800 783 2503 or visit www.actionsurrey.org.

Want to make a difference to a vulnerable adult?

More people across Surrey are needed to help look after disabled or vulnerable adults.

Shared Lives is a scheme run by the council to provide support for adults who have learning or physical disabilities, mental health problems or the elderly.

Carers can receive between £330 - £570 a week, depending on the level of care, which can vary from permanent, short-term, weekend or a daily basis.

To find out more about Shared Lives, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/sharedlives or call 03456 009 009.

Tell us what you think about flooding

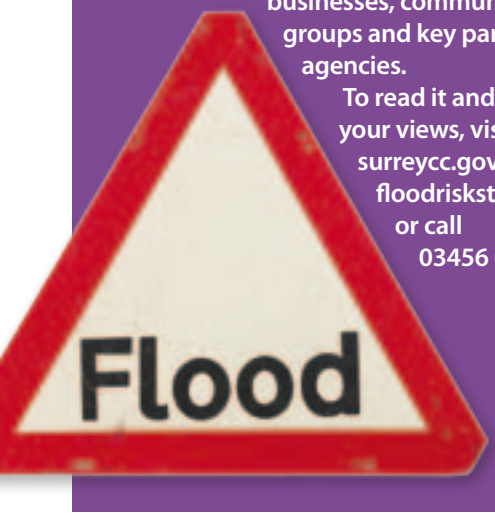
Earlier this year, Surrey County Council used feedback from residents to help shape a strategy about flood risk.

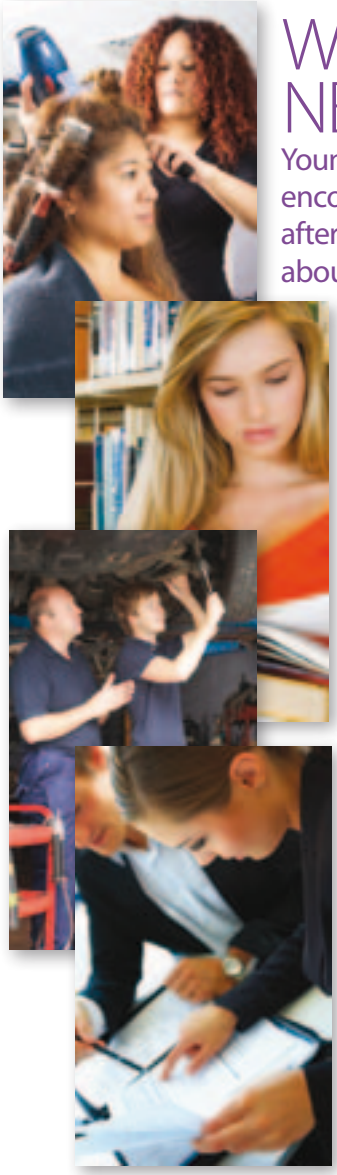
The strategy outlines the ambitions and priorities of local partners to ensure flooding in the county is kept to a minimum.

It also explains which organisations are responsible for different types of flooding and what residents and businesses can do to protect themselves.

To help develop the strategy, the council is now asking for feedback from residents, businesses, community groups and key partner agencies.

To read it and give your views, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/floodriskstrategy or call 03456 009 009.





WHAT'S YOUR NEXT MOVE?

Young people in Surrey are being encouraged to explore their 'next move' after Year 11 following a change in the law about leaving education and training.

Those just starting Year 11 will need to be in training or education until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 and for those currently in Year 10 or below, until they are 18. There are lots of different options for young people to choose from including apprenticeships, work with training, college, sixth form or part-time volunteering while studying.

Contact your school or youth support officer to find out more, or visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/yournextmove.

what's your next move?

Surrey Matters turns the spotlight on a couple from Farnham who have been fostering children for 36 years.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Graham and Pam Cribbs have made a difference to the lives of 244 children, having been foster carers since 1976.

The couple, both aged 66, are short term carers who look after siblings before they are either adopted, cared for by long term foster carers or returned home.

"It all started after our daughter was born and our other two were under three," Graham explained. "Pam wanted to stay at home to look after them and a neighbour asked if she could mind her child too. Someone just mentioned about fostering and it went from there. It fitted nicely with our situation, and our own kids loved it."

"The rewards of fostering are amazing. Seeing a child succeed at something they couldn't do before gives us such a sense of achievement. We are the centre of their life for that period of time, and while they're with us we get to see them grow and relax into who they really are. That's when we start to see them doing well in school. One child is now a forensic scientist and another is a project manager."

Pam added: "I make each child an album they can keep, with pictures of things they've done with us and their achievements. Then Graham writes a message in the front before they leave us. It gives them a record of their life here and helps them to remember all the good times. They know where the album is kept in the house and we often find them looking through it.

"My one regret is that I wish we'd written down all the lovely and funny things our foster children have said, I could write a book. I remember one boy came home from school and told me how happy he was. When I asked him why, he said 'because you care'. That's when you see what a difference you can make to a child."

For people thinking about fostering, Graham advised: "You need to have patience; energy and time but most importantly, you need to love children whatever their background."

If you'd like to find out about fostering, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/fostering or call 03456 009 009.

"MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER... *gone forever*"

Della Phillips tragically lost her daughter Kelly because of a speeding driver when she was just 17 years old.

Since 2005, Della Phillips has been tirelessly campaigning to encourage new young drivers to stay safe on Surrey's roads. Every year she tells Kelly's story at Surrey's Safe Drive Stay Alive events which show the consequences of dangerous driving.

What happened to Kelly?

On 15 May 2005 I waved Kelly off as she left for a party at her college.

I last spoke to her at 8.30pm; she was excited and told me what a great time she was having. The last I heard from Kelly was a text some time later saying she was in a boy's car listening to music. It turned out the boy didn't have a full driving licence and went out onto the open road. He was driving at 80mph in a 40mph limit when he hit the tree that killed him and Kelly instantly.

We identified Kelly the following day. I didn't recognise her at first, she was so cold and I just wanted to put a warm blanket over her. That's when it really hit me; my beautiful daughter had gone forever.

Why did you get involved with the Safe Drive show?

The year before her accident, Kelly attended the first Safe Drive Stay Alive show and was moved by the tragic tales she heard on the stage. I knew that if anything positive was to come out of losing Kelly, I had to get involved.

What sort of reaction do you get from the young people attending the events?

A mixture really; some burst into tears and tell me how sorry they are for what we went through, which we will have to live with forever. Others tell me how it has changed their outlook and some struggle to look at me, clearly too upset for words. We receive some offers of help and people asking if they can get involved.

I've also heard from parents saying how they struggled to get their son or daughter to slow down, but since seeing the show, their child's driving has improved. I'm just pleased that Kelly's story is helping other young people learn the dangers on the road.

What advice would you give parents whose children are learning to drive?

Find an instructor who is not just trying to get them through the test, but who really teaches them about how to drive safely. Bring them along to the show or get them to watch one of the videos.

When they pass, make sure you remind them about the dangers of being over confident, and most importantly, discuss your fears with them rather than lecture them.

Della's story of Kelly is just one part of the Safe Drive Stay Alive events, that 16-19 year olds will attend this autumn.

Alongside this, the next Drive SMART campaign, launching in October, will tackle speeding, which is the biggest cause of road accidents in the UK.

To find out more about the show, and see all the Drive SMART campaigns, visit www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk. You can also find out more by calling 03456 009 009.

Damon Hill with Della Phillips

Damon Hill shows his support

Former Formula One champion Damon Hill and supporter of Safe Drive Stay Alive said: "I'm the father of four children and I want the roads to be safe for them. That's why I continue to support this fantastic initiative. I've seen this show nearly every year since it started and it doesn't get any easier to watch.

"If we can get the message out to young people through these performances of what can happen, then it's a good thing. It's all about saving lives."

Fixing Surr

From January to June this year, nearly 31,000 potholes were filled and in just four months, over a million square metres of road was resurfaced.

There are 250 people currently working to repair and improve Surrey's roads and so far they have made a huge difference.

One of those people is Andrew Osbourne, ***(pictured right)***, a supervisor for one of the reactive maintenance crews operated by highways contractor May Gurney.

"My job is to supervise crews who fix potholes in Surrey's roads. I make sure the crew are working safely, that they're productive and I deal with various issues that may arise throughout the day" explained Andrew.

"Each day is different as we don't know what we're doing from one job to the next. This is because all the defects are prioritised. Priority 1 jobs pose an immediate danger, which need to be dealt with in two hours. This usually involves a missing manhole cover, trees or debris on the roads, flooding or oil spillages.

"All other jobs are repaired within either 24 hours or 28 days of being reported, but those that are on a busier road, are bigger or pose a greater risk are prioritised to be fixed within two days.

"For every piece of work we do, we use a 'right first time' approach. For potholes, which we spend a lot of our time doing, we take time to prepare the area, cut the full defect and fill it, making sure it's properly compacted and left neat."

"The versatility of the job is what I love about it. Every day there are new challenges that come up and I love being out and meeting the public, who are always so appreciative of the work we do."

Planning for winter

With this year's weather proving unpredictable, Surrey County Council began planning in July to keep the county moving in case of extreme conditions during the winter.

If Surrey has ice and snow, the council will draw on 17,000 tonnes of salt stored in depots across the county to grit roads on priority routes. That will mean emergency services can get to those in need, businesses can remain open, motorists can get to work and pupils can access schools.

If Surrey sees ice and snow, the council will draw on 17,000 tonnes of salt

As well as more than 35 gritters, the council's winter fleet includes snow ploughs, a quad bike and a 4x4 to help get to the more inaccessible or steeper roads. As well as this, more than 50 farmers and volunteers from Surrey's 4x4 Response charity will work alongside the highways teams to keep roads clear and help vulnerable people during bad weather.

Borough and district councils have also been provided with 40 tonnes of salt to help clear snow and ice on roads in their areas.

John Furey, Surrey County Council Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, said: "Plans are well underway to keep the county moving in case of extreme weather this winter. Our highways teams are prepared, we've stocked up on salt and we have a fleet of gritters and snow ploughs ready to use when needed.

"We can't grit every road in Surrey but

rey's roads

by working with farmers, volunteers and our partners we can cover key routes across the county. Residents can help too by planning ahead and using grit bins to treat local roads and pavements in their communities."

How to get in touch

For frequently asked questions, enquiries on winter issues and service updates, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/winter or call 03456 009 009. You can also get travel updates and gritting routes on Twitter by following @surreytravel.

BRITAIN'S *best cycling* DESTINATION?

Over a million people lined the streets of Surrey to watch top cyclists in the Olympic road cycling events, when Team GB won gold, silver and bronze.

Huge crowds came to Surrey on the opening weekend of the London 2012 Olympic Games, where Lizzie Armitstead won silver in the women's Road Race.

Thousands came back a couple of days later for the Time Trials, where Bradley Wiggins landed a gold and Chris Froome clinched the bronze place position.

More than 400 local volunteers, known as Surrey Ambassadors, helped to manage the crowds, provide information to visitors and hand out spectator guides on the days of the events. There were also over 200,000 visits to the council's Go Surrey website, where people could download spectator guides, get race times and keep up to date with road closures and re-openings.

Following the success of the Olympic events, top cyclists returned to Surrey to take part in the eighth and final stage of the Tour of Britain with a gruelling route from Reigate to Guildford through some of the county's most beautiful countryside.

Next year, the Tour of Britain will return to Surrey along with Ride London, a bike ride which will offer 20,000 people the chance to ride part of the Olympic road race route in August.

What you thought

Here's just some of the feedback we received on the day of the races.

"The atmosphere was amazing and the stewards and police carried out their duties professionally but ensured they entered into the spirit of the day." **– John H**

"Everything went surprisingly smoothly and all the staff were able to come and go with minimum bother." **– Westcott House Nursing Home**

"Great job with the Road Race and Time Trials. We really enjoyed it and thought it was really well organised." – **Heather S**

Cycling success leads to Tour de France bid

The success of the cycling races has led Surrey County Council to consider bidding to host a stage of the ultimate cycling competition, the Tour de France.

David Hodge, Leader of Surrey County Council, would like to say a big thank you to all the volunteers and staff involved.

Your photos

Many of you sent us your photos of the races. Here's just a few that we received...

To see more of the photos you sent us, visit www.facebook.com/gosurrey

David Hodge, Leader of Surrey County Council, said: "Surrey has been the epicentre of world cycling, cementing the county's reputation as a world class place to ride. That's why we're looking at putting together a bid to host a stage of the Tour de France to build on the success of the Olympic cycle races."

Safe cycling

The success of the cyclists in the Olympics has certainly inspired people across the county to get on their bikes to explore Surrey's rich countryside but it's important to cycle safely.

Drivers are also asked to stay vigilant and to be patient when sharing the road with cyclists.

For safety tips and to find out more about bikeability courses available, visit www.drivesmartsurrey.org.uk or call 03456 009 009.

"I FELT *very alone*"

Surrey resident Emma* shares her story of domestic abuse, and how she got the courage to seek help.

To the outside world Emma was living a normal life – a married, middle-class, educated mother who put on a facade that all was well with the world.

But behind closed doors she found herself the victim of her husband's escalating domestic abuse.

Emma told her story to Surrey Matters as part of a campaign to encourage other victims to seek help and support.

"My experience started after my daughter was born," she explained. "My husband started to have financial, emotional and alcohol problems and rather than dealing with those problems himself he started blaming me for everything happening in his life."

His behaviour worsened over the next four or five years. "It started out as verbal abuse – belittling behaviour in ways that would humiliate me – in private and to a certain extent in front of other people."

He soon became physically violent. "I felt very alone, very unable to tell anybody what was happening."

Twelve years ago, Emma made the decision to seek help to get out of the relationship. She's now sharing her story in a campaign to encourage other victims to come forward.

"I think one problem you face with domestic abuse is the fear that people won't believe you, that this kind of thing doesn't happen to educated, middle-aged women."

"It's very daunting to get yourself out of that type of situation," she explained. "But you don't need to accept that behaviour. None of it is acceptable; you haven't deserved any of it."

The campaign is being run by a range of partners including Surrey County Council, local charity yourSanctuary, domestic abuse outreach services and Surrey Police.

If you are concerned that you or someone you know is experiencing domestic abuse, call the yourSanctuary 24 hour helpline in confidence on 01483 776822 or visit www.yoursanctuary.org.uk. You can also report domestic abuse to Surrey Police by calling 101. In an emergency always dial 999.

yourSanctuary is a local charity providing a range of services which offer emotional and practical support to people and their children who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse.

For full details of other local outreach services in the county visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/domesticabuse.

* name has been changed

ARE YOU *throwing* YOUR MONEY *awa*

Surrey mum saves £30 a month by cutting down on her food waste.

Research has revealed that every day in Surrey, we throw away enough bread to fill a double decker bus. And there was enough salad binned this summer to fill an Olympic size swimming pool!

In total, an astonishing 80,000 tonnes of uneaten food is thrown away each year in Surrey, costing taxpayers £6.7 million to deal with it.

The Love Food Surrey campaign helps and advises Surrey residents on how to waste less by making simple changes to shopping, storage and cooking habits.

Ruth Hostler, ***(pictured right),*** mum of three from Bookham, wrote to tell us how much her shopping and cooking habits have changed since picking up a meal planner at a roadshow event last year.

She said: "I now plan the week ahead, look at what we already have in, when we'll be out, what we can use up from the previous day, and then shop.

"My toddler is more than happy with a meal of leftover baked beans and veg, with pasta and some ham. Also the measuring tools for child and adult portions of rice and pasta are very helpful. I always used to over or under cook, but now it's the perfect portion every time."

John Furey, Surrey County Council's Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment, added: "We all get tempted by the supermarket offers and deals, but sometimes it means we buy too much food, which just ends up in the bin. For example, we threw away enough potatoes to fill six football pitches this summer.

"To help us all waste less, we've provided easy tips, recipe ideas and shopping advice. It will also save money on your shopping bills."

Meet the experts

Our team of experts are out and about to dish out advice on easy and practical ways to cut down on food you might be throwing away.

At the events you'll be able to pick up free goodies such as meal planners, rice measures, fridge magnets and recipe cards when you pledge to support the Love Food Surrey campaign.

For details of upcoming events and to get advice on planning your shopping, portion control and recipe ideas, call 03456 009 009 or visit www.lovefoodsurrey.com where you can also sign up to our bi-monthly e-newsletter.

Spinach and potato soup

Warm yourself up by cooking this simple and tasty soup, perfect for using up your leftover vegetables.
This recipe makes a meal for four, but if you have any leftovers let it cool and put it in the freezer. You can then defrost the soup in the fridge and reheat thoroughly until piping hot for an easy meal another day.

Ingredients

1 finely chopped onion
2 crushed garlic cloves
900g/2lb potatoes, diced
2 chopped celery sticks
2 pints vegetable stock
250g fresh spinach leaves
Freshly ground black pepper
Croutons and chopped fresh parsley to garnish

Method

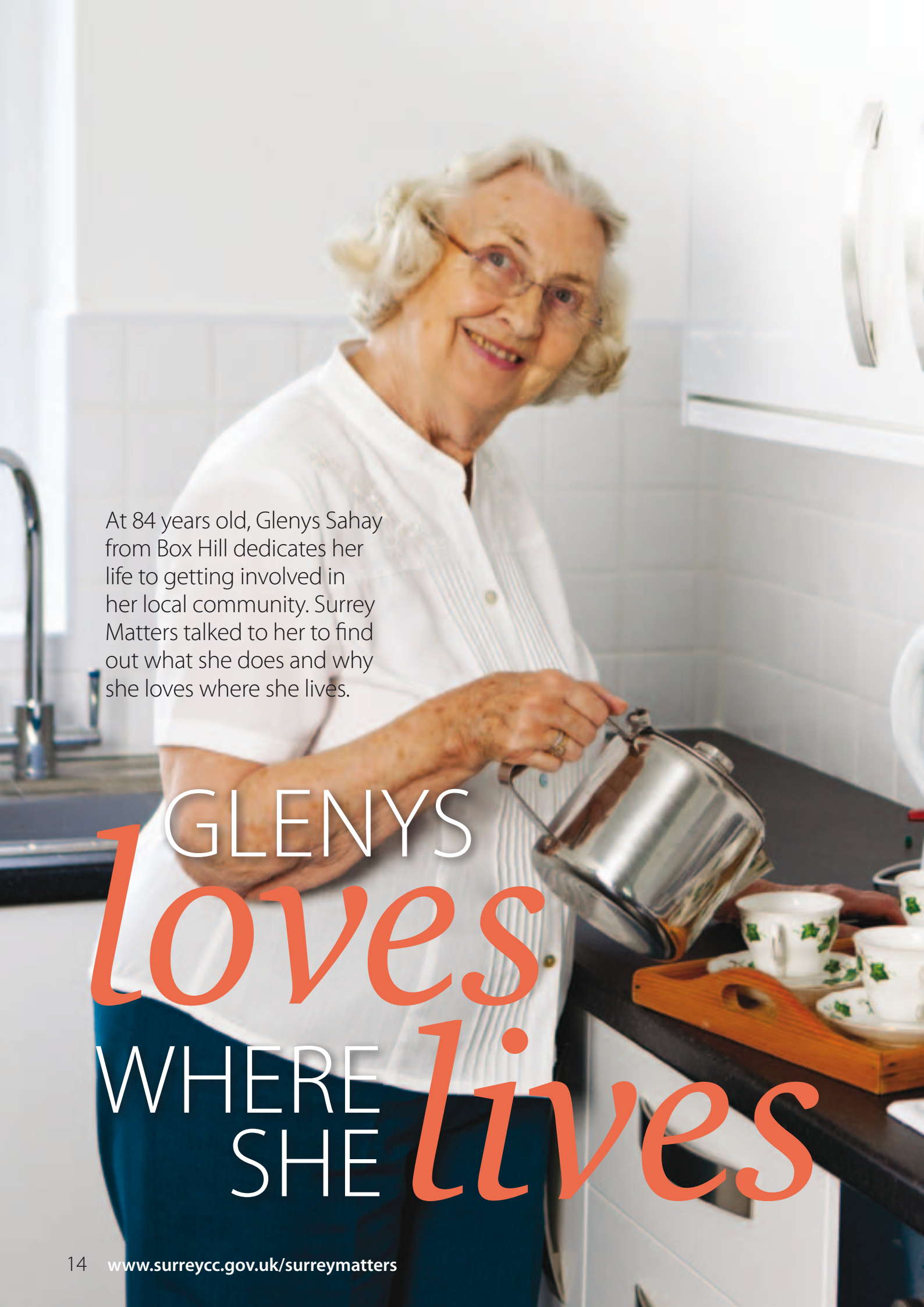
1. Place the potatoes, onion, garlic and celery in a large saucepan. Add the stock and simmer for 20 minutes until potatoes are soft and cooked.
2. Season with ground black pepper and add the spinach. Cook for a further 10 minutes.
3. Remove from the heat and allow to cool slightly.
4. Decant some of the soup into a blender, or use a hand held blender, to smooth the soup.
5. Serve into warm bowls and garnish with croutons and chopped parsley.

y?

Use your caddy

Food waste can't always be avoided. That's why food waste kerbside collections are now available in most areas of the county for items like tea bags, vegetable peelings and bones from meat.

By separating food waste from general waste, it can be processed in a more environmentally friendly way and turned into fertiliser for use on farms.



At 84 years old, Glenys Sahay from Box Hill dedicates her life to getting involved in her local community. Surrey Matters talked to her to find out what she does and why she loves where she lives.

GLENYS *loves* WHERE SHE *lives*

David Hodge, Leader of Surrey County Council, launched the Community Improvements Fund: "Glenys is a real inspiration for us all and I hope her work encourages others to get involved in volunteering in their local community."

Glenys Sahay runs the Friends of St Andrew's, a charity that has been working hard for eight years to raise money to build a new kitchen on the side of St Andrew's church. The aim was to offer food and drink and make the church and village hall attractive and available for people to hire out.

She said: "We managed to raise £28,000 over eight years by holding bazaars, BBQs, concerts, coffee mornings and raffles. That was nearly enough to build an extension off the church, but we needed more to fit the kitchen.

Glenys applied for money through the Community Improvements Fund, an initiative from the Leader of Surrey County Council which offers residents and community groups the opportunity to get funding for local projects. This is just one of a number of ways residents can get involved as part of the Love Where You Live campaign. "We are such a small community that I didn't think we had a chance, but thought I'd give it a go.

"I couldn't believe it when we heard we had the money. They gave us £12,675, the full amount that we asked for. £8000 went into the construction and the rest we used to pay for all the fittings. If we hadn't been awarded the money, we'd have had to continue to fundraise with an incomplete kitchen. Thankfully that wasn't the case, the council saved my bacon!"

"Getting involved and being part of the community is terribly important."

The kitchen has been carefully designed with help and advice from the builders. The cupboards are soft closing, so food can be prepared without disturbing activities and events in the church and there is a serving platform on the stable door.

Glenys added: "Now we have this kitchen, we can advertise for people to use the church and village hall to generate revenue and make it self-funding. We hope the kitchen will attract people to use the facilities."

As the village is around five miles from Dorking town centre and the majority of the community are elderly, those who live in the village all help each other out. The Box Hill Community Care Council provides computer classes three times a week, fitness classes, craft clubs and outings. There's also the care team, who look after people over 60, by taking them out for lunches and trips, help with any problems they have and organise tea parties.

Glenys, along with many others in the village, sit on a number of committees and work together to give everyone what they need. In 2004, she set up a charity to help build the parish church and village hall and her dedication to the village grew from there.

She said: "Getting involved and being part of the community is terribly important. Box Hill is a great example of generating that spirit and it's a happy village to live in.

"Before I came here, I didn't know many people but by being active and social I've now got so many friends. The community spirit has really grown over the last 20 years and everyone here is community minded."

Love Where You Live is a campaign run by Surrey County Council to encourage residents to get involved in their local community.

For details about all the council's funding opportunities available or to find out how you can get involved in your local community, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/getinvolved or call 03456 009 009.

PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL MITCHELL

SURREY MATTERS GOES *digital*

Do you want to get council news and information at the click of a button?

Surrey Matters has updated its website, giving you up to the minute news, features, competitions and events. You can also post your photos and videos of Surrey in our themed competitions.

By clicking online, you can sign up to our e-newsletter for a monthly look at the latest news and information sent straight to your inbox.

And don't forget, you can follow Surrey Matters on Facebook and Twitter for a daily dose of the goings on across the county.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

We are always looking for ways to improve Surrey Matters, so we give you the information you want.

Please complete this survey and return it to **Surrey Matters, Freepost, Communications, Surrey County Council, KT1 2EA.** You can also fill it in online at **www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters.**

How well informed does Surrey Matters make you feel about the services provided by Surrey County Council?

☐ Very well ☐ Quite well
☐ Not very well ☐ Not well at all

What stories would you like to see in Surrey Matters?

☐ Council services
☐ Interesting information about the county
☐ Topical issues
☐ Voluntary groups and organisations
☐ News from your local area
☐ Features on service provision in your county
☐ Features on non-council issues
☐ News updates
☐ Visit feature
☐ What's on
☐ Competitions
☐ Other (please specify)

.....

Which articles did you enjoy reading in this issue of Surrey Matters?

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.....
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* Your email address will be solely used by Surrey Matters and not be given out to any third party organisations.

Which article did you enjoy the least?

.....
.....

Have you found out something new from reading this issue?

☐ Yes (please state what)

.....
.....

☐ No ☐ Don't know

Has one of the articles in the magazine inspired you to do something new?

☐ Waste less food
☐ Buy a compost bin
☐ Foster a child
☐ Get involved in your local community
☐ Report a problem on Surrey's roads
☐ Stop speeding
☐ Other (please specify)

.....
.....

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VISIT Epsom

Sitting just inside the M25, Epsom is a bustling town with plenty of things to see and do.

The town may be most famous for its racecourse but there are plenty of things to do besides – whether you want to hit the shops, watch a play or head out onto the beautiful Epsom Downs.

A long history

Epsom was just a small village until minerals were found in the local salts in the 17th Century.

It fast became a busy spa town and attracted the likes of Samuel Pepys and King Charles II, which really put it on the map. But as interest in the spa began to decline, visitors were still being attracted to the horseracing, particularly after the Derby was established in 1780.

Today, Epsom remains a bustling commuter town, thanks to its fast rail links to London.

Out on the Downs

Epsom Downs is an area of chalk upland, home to Epsom racecourse and a hotspot for ramblers, golfers, cyclists and even model aeroplane enthusiasts for its panoramic views of London. The Derby, which is an annual favourite with the Royal family, takes place at the racecourse in June each year and attracts thousands of people from across the county.

www.francisfrith.com

Shoppers delight

There's a market held every Thursday and Saturday in the town centre, where you can find plenty of fresh fruit and veg, clothing and plants. If you prefer the high street favourites, head to The Ashley Centre and the square. There you'll also find an abundance of bars, restaurants and cafes.

Things to see

Both professional and community theatre productions are held in Epsom Playhouse, conveniently located just seconds from the town's square, whilst the local cinema shows all the latest films. The kids will love Hobbledown for a day with all the farmyard favourites.

Would you like to have your town or village featured in the next edition of Surrey Matters? Then email us at surreymatters@surreycc.gov.uk or call 03456 009 009.

What you think of Epsom

Surrey Matters took to the streets of Epsom to see what people think of the town.

June Longhurst from Epsom

Epsom is a great place to live because it's down the road from the beautiful countryside yet just a short train journey to London. The schools are good and the Derby is great fun.

John Bates from Chessington

I love to come to Epsom, I usually come three times a week. It's got virtually everything you need and there's cheap parking.

Patsy Locke from Epsom

There are plenty of things for the kids to do here and some of the shopping is good. There are some great restaurants here too.

What's on..
SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER

25 August-30 September
Surrey Sculpture Society Trail, RHS Garden Wisley
Enjoy one of the largest exhibitions of sculptures in the UK. Adults £10.50, child £4.50. Weekdays 10am-6pm. Weekends 9am-6pm.
www.rhs.org.uk/wisley
0845 260 9000

23 September
Santini Bikeathon 2012, QEF, Leatherhead
Choose from either a 13, 26 or even 45 mile route through the Surrey Hills to raise money for The Queen Elizabeth Foundation for Disabled People. Adults £15, child £7.
www.qef.org.uk
01372 841222

23 September
Reptile Awareness Day, Painshill Park, Cobham
Come face to face with live British amphibians and reptiles and pick up some fascinating facts. 12pm-4pm. Adults £6.80, child £3.85.
www.painshill.co.uk
01932 868 113

17-20 October
Life x 3, Barn Theatre, Oxted
A hilarious and sophisticated Parisian comedy of manners that tells the story of a couple who turn up to a dinner party on the wrong night. 7.45pm each night. £7-£9 each.
www.barntheatreoxted.co.uk
01883 724852

29 October-2 November
Halloween Activity Week, Birdworld, Farnham
Head out on a spooky trail, visit the Halloween grotto and make some creepy arts and crafts. 10am-6pm. Adults £15.50, child £12.50-£13.50.
www.birdworld.co.uk
01420 22992

5-8 November
Dolly Parton - 9 to 5 The Musical, New Victoria Theatre, Woking
Coming straight from Broadway, Bonnie Langford and Natalie Casey lead a great cast in this hilarious story of friendship, gossip and revenge. 7.45pm each night plus a 2.30pm matinee on 7 Nov. £15-£42.
www.atgtickets.com
0844 871 7645

15-18 November
Christmas Fair, Loseley Park, Guildford
Get ready for Christmas early and get your hands on some great craftwork and festive food from the Rural Craft Association. 9am-5pm on 15, 16 & 17 Nov. 9am-4pm on 18 Nov. £5.50 in advance.
www.ruralcraftsassociation.co.uk
01428 684494

8,9,15 & 16 December
Santa Specials, Rural Life Centre, Farnham
Take your kids to meet Santa, ride on the light railway and see some live animals. 10am-6pm on 8 & 15 Dec and 10am-5pm on 9 & 16 Dec. Adults £7, child £11.
www.rurallife.plus.com
01252 795571

13-15 December
Winter Wonderland Christmas Party, G Live, Guildford
Head to the Narnia inspired Winter Wonderland where you can enjoy a three course meal, an evening of live music, a DJ and much more. 7pm £49.95 each.
www. glive.co.uk
01483 739040

14 December
Christmas Concert, St James's Church, Weybridge
Join in with The Treble Clef Ladies' Choir who will be singing some traditional Christmas carols. 7.30pm. Adults £7, under 12's are free.
www.trebleclefchoir.org.uk
01252 326514

Win!

Kempton Park Racecourse is offering Surrey Matters readers the chance to win a three course meal for four in its panoramic restaurant on William Hill jump on Sunday 21 October. The prize, worth £300, includes admission to the races, a three course meal, racecard, a plasma screen at the table and a betting table service.

For a chance to win this prize, answer the following question at www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters: What date was the first race held at Kempton Park?

Alternatively send the answer with your name, address and number to Surrey Matters, Room G29, Penrhyn Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2DN.
To find out more, visit www.kempton.co.uk.
For terms and conditions, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/surreymatters.

Like this? Sign up to the Surrey Matters e-newsletter by emailing surreymatters@surreycc.gov.uk.

COME RACING FOR £5 AT KEMPTON PARK!

Kempton Park are delighted to offer Surrey Matters readers an exclusive £5 ticket deal for all 2012 fixtures*

For a full list of our 2012 fixtures and events, visit our website.

SIMPLY BOOK ONLINE OR CALL USING THE OFFER CODE

KPSURREY12

WWW.KEMPTON.CO.UK
0844 579 3008

Fee applies to all ticket bookings | *Offer includes all 2012 fixtures at Kempton Park excluding The William Hill Winter Festival on 26 & 27 December 2012 | £5 offer must be booked by 5pm the day before the fixture you wish to attend | Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer | Under 18s go free when accompanied by an adult
Full terms and conditions apply

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The Jockey Club

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